

Missouri Botanical Garden
Henry Shaw Mausoleum
Missouri Botanical Garden
2345 Tower Grove Avenue
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1135-E

HABS
MO,
96-SALU,
105E-

PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
HENRY SHAW MAUSOLEUMHABS
MO,
96-SALU,
105E-

Location: Garden headquarters at 2345 Tower Grove Avenue St. Louis, Missouri. The Mausoleum stands within the Missouri Botanical Garden, present city block 4104, bounded on the north by Shaw Avenue, the south by Magnolia Avenue, the east by Tower Grove Avenue, and the west by Alfred Avenue.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.738760.4277120

Present Owner: Board of Trustees, Missouri Botanical Garden.

Present Use: Memorial housing the remains of the Garden's founder.

Significance: A well-preserved example of late nineteenth century funerary art, the mausoleum's main importance is as a monument to the founder of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: In May, 1885, Shaw made a contract with the Hurricane Granite Company to rebuild in granite (bill 5/20/85 in Shaw Mss. 'Bills 1875-1886') the mausoleum designed by George I. Barnett and executed in limestone by James Coughlin in 1862 (Shaw Mss. 'Cashbook 1856-1866, v.2, pt. 2; p.76). The original was taken down and re-erected 165' to the northeast of the original site and the granite tomb built in its place in 1885-1886 (receipts of R. Langwith, 10/85-12/86 in Shaw Mss. 'Bills 1875-1886').
2. Architect: George I. Barnett (receipt for \$318 2/12/87 in Shaw Mss. 'Bills 1875-1886'). For biographical information, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO-1135).
3. Original and subsequent owners: The structure is situated within the treed area known as Tower Grove. Title to the grove belonging to Thomas Jefferson Payne was procured by Shaw in Sheriff's sale for \$95 on August 27, 1842 (title in Shaw Mss. 'Real Estate Barriere des Noyers'.) For further property description of the entire garden, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO-1135). The seventy-five acre tract constituting the entire Garden passed into the hands of the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden, as designated in Shaw's will upon his death on August 25, 1889 ("Some Facts about the Garden," n.p.).

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Richard Langwith rebuilt the mausoleum with \$5,149 worth of Missouri Granite supplied by the Hurricane Granite Company (bill 5/20/85 in Shaw Mss. 'Bills 1875-1886') on a slightly larger plan to accommodate the sarcophagus and sculpted effigy commissioned by Shaw (MBG Bulletin, 6/61, p.97) from Munich sculptor Ferdinand von Miller. Miller had received photographs and begun preliminary sketches in March of 1883 (MBG Bulletin 9/18, p.58). The marble sculpture was completed as were the bronze relieves for the base by April 1885, when Miller submitted his bill for \$3,575 (letter in Shaw Mss. Art and Architecture file). The Pickel Marble and Granite Company of St. Louis supplied the specified base and floor tiling for \$375 (bill 11/11/86, in Shaw Mss. "Bills 1875-1886"). The dome was done by Shickle, Harrison, and Company, and the glass was set by Hull and Cozzens for \$800 in December 1886 (bill 12/23/86 in Shaw Mss. 'Bills 1875-1886').
5. Original plans, construction: Shaw planned his mausoleum years before his death. The original drawings on linen for the sarcophagus still exist in the garden's Lehmann Library in Shaw Manuscripts, volume 73, as do the design proposals for the dome of the Mausoleum by Mr. Lorenze of Shickle, Harrison, and Company, St. Louis ironworkers, submitted on July 15, 1874. The second of those proposals was implemented. Barnett's plans for the Mausoleum itself were presumably destroyed in the 1930s when the offices of some of the successors to Barnett's firm were closed (Paolinelli interview).
6. Alterations and additions: There is no evidence of any alteration to the structure; it was restored in the fall of 1960 under the direction of Robert Theiss of Theiss Plating Company, St. Louis. The stone was cleaned by Vittert Building Cleaning, and the glass reset by Emil Frei, Incorporated (MBG Bulletin 2/61, pp.31-32). There was no replacement of original fabric save leading; the glass appeared by its condition at that time to be the original (Theiss interview).
7. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: Henry Shaw (1800-1889) For biographical information about the garden founder, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO-1135).

Ferdinand von Miller (1842-1929) was the owner and principal sculptor of the Royal Bronze Foundry in Munich, Germany. He was first introduced to Henry Shaw in 1871 while making a tour of the United States after supervising the erection of the Tyler Davidson Fountain in Cincinnati, Ohio. For eleven years (1875-1886) the two corresponded regularly; twenty-three letters from Von Miller to Henry Shaw are in the Garden's Lehmann Library Archives. All concern details and specifications for the following statuary that von Miller made for Henry Shaw:

1. Statue of Shakespeare (1878) - Tower Grove Park.
2. Statue of Alexander von Humbolt (1878) - Tower Grove Park.
3. Marble busts of Wagner and Beethoven (1884) Tower Grove Park.
4. Marble sepulchre image of Henry Shaw for his mausoleum (1886) - Missouri Botanical Garden.
5. Statue of Columbus (1886) - Tower Grove Park.

Each of the park statues was cast in bronze costing approximately \$5,000.00 apiece with additional cost for reliefs which adorned the bases (TFP Compt, 1882, p.196 8/7/85); the busts were \$725.00 each. The exact cost of the marble figure for Henry Shaw's sarcophagus is unknown. Ferdinand von Miller's statues in Tower Grove Park are probably the finest works of art he contributed to the United States. "Henry Shaw's contributions to Art in St. Louis; Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, Sept. 1918., pp. 81-90.)

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: One view of the effigy, one interior view, and two exterior ones taken ca. 1889- one from west copied - are in the Shaw Mss. photographic file; ca. six exterior views, undated, are in the garden pictorial file in the rare book stacks, both in the Lehmann Library.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary sources:

Plans for the dome and sarcophagus are in the Shaw photographic file and v. 73 in the John S. Lehmann Library, in the Missouri Botanical Garden. Titles and deeds to what became the garden are in the Shaw Mss. "Real Estate in Barriere des Noyers Accounts," Lehmann Library. An unpublished paper by Dorothy Brockoff, titled "A Study of Henry Shaw and His Houses", dated March 8, 1962; and the Shaw Manuscript collection including the art and architecture file, bills 1875-1886, and cashbook 1856-1866, v.1, pt. 1, and the Trustees minutes from 1899-1933, are all in the Lehmann Library.

- b. Interviews:

June 8, 1974; offices of Sulvester Schmidt Associates, 601 Olive St. (Railway Exchange Building), St. Louis, Mo., Fernando Paolinelli, a principal in one of the firms succeeding that of George I. Barnett (T.P. Barnett), related that when the firm of Barnett, Haynes, and Barnett closed

in the 1930s, all the plans drawn by G.I. Barnett for Shaw, which were in their possession, were destroyed in spite of the efforts of the T.P. Barnett firm to retrieve them.

June 13, 1974; Theiss Plating Company, 9314 Manchester, St. Louis, Mo. Robert Theiss, supervisor of the mausoleum restoration in 1960, revealed that the only original material removed and replaced was the leading in the windows.

c. Secondary sources:

"Barnett, Haynes, and Barnett," The Church Progress (July 27, (1922), p.10.

Barnett, Thomas P. "Pioneer Architect of the West," Western Architect (February 1912), pp. 13-24.

Dimmock, Thomas. "Henry Shaw: A Biography (1890),
"Missouri Botanical Reprint, 1946.

"Henry Shaw's Contributions to Art in St. Louis,"
Missouri Botanical Garden, VI. (Sept. 1918), pp. 81-90.

Hyde, William and Howard L. Conrad, eds. "George I. Barnett," History of St. Louis, I. St. Louis: The Southern History Co., 1899, p.98.

Kobuski, Clarence E. "Formative Days of Mr. Shaw's Garden,"
Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXX, #5
(May 1942), pp.100-110.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis:
R.P. Studley and Co., 1883.

"Mausoleum Restoration," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin
XLIX, #2 (February 1961), pp.31-32.

"Picture Review of the Garden for 1961," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XLIX, #6 (June 1961, pp.86-100.

Shaw, Henry. "Guide to the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1880," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXXI, #7 (September 1943), pp. 138-145.

Shoemaker, Floyd Calvin, ed. "George I. Barnett, Missouri and Missourians: Missouri Biography, V. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1943, p.73.

"Some Facts about the Garden." Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXXI, #7 (September 1943), n.p.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The octagonal crypt is placed in a serene and picturesque setting and features classical proportions, rusticated stonework, an umbrella dome, and many-colored leaded glass fan and sidelights.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Octagonal shape, eight bays, each 6'-3" wide; 37' high to top of cross.
2. Foundations: Granite blocks situated on an octagonal patio, sides 9'-3" wide, made of cut stone slabs.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Solid gray rusticated granite piers and round arches form an arcade carrying a heavy cornice. The bays contain black wrought iron railings, each composed of nine spear-headed palings. The railings are 11'-6" to 12' high, rising at their centers.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing walls, 1'-3" thick.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance is in the west bay with iron-framed paired doors, each having six large clear glass panes. It is surmounted by a transom like those over the windows. An iron double gate like the railings in the window bays encloses it.
 - b. Windows: Wrought iron railing fronts the windows, which have six, square, beveled glass main lights. These are framed in iron and have sidelights and a semicircular fanlight filled with colored leaded glass of geometric and floral motifs. These are composed of four shades of pink, three of blue, two of yellow, of brown, of orange, and of red, and one shade of purple and of green. A rectangular panel containing leaded colored glass spans the sidelights just below the fan.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape: The copper umbrella-shaped dome is patinated and is capped by a cross resting on an orb.
- b. Cornice: There is a heavy cornice with cursive dentils above the rusticated frieze, the west section of which is polished smooth carry the inscription of Henry Shaw's name.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The octagonal space has Shaw's rectangular tomb running east-west at its center.
2. Flooring: Octagonal white and smaller square red tiles are arranged in a geometric pattern.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior dome is coffered. The cornice below it is ornamented with stylized leaves and flower buds on stalks.
4. Decorative features: The decorative moldings and colored lights of the structure and the carvings on the sarcophagus have been recorded in detail on the HABS drawings. The rectangular sarcophagus has round, baluster-like elements at its corners, between the base and the frieze above. The balusters bulge at the center, where they have a ring molding. The long sides of the sarcophagus have three panels. The central rectangular one contains the inscription.

HENRY SHAW

DIED AT ST. LOUIS, MO.

1889

The square panels flanking it contain bronze funerary wreaths. The east and west ends have single square panels with the same wreath design. A frieze of floral motifs runs around all sides above the panels. A marble effigy of Shaw in a reclining position rests atop the sarcophagus.

D. Site:

The mausoleum sits in the grove just north of Tower Grove House, in the Missouri Botanical Garden. It is shaded by pin oak trees, and the ground around it is covered with Bulgarian ivy. When light shines through the leaded panes of its windows, the interior is bathed with a rainbow of colors, creating an almost religious

atmosphere of serenity. The mausoleum stands near the center of the grove, on the east side of a slab footpath running on the north-south axis at the center of the garden. An iron rail spearpoint fence surrounds the grove. Gates at the north and south ends are composed of stone posts, capped by decorative cast-iron urns and carrying iron rail gates.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
Field Historian
National Park Service
August, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (architect, University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, project foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1982. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.

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